

Meeting Date: July 24

Agenda Item No. 25

Agenda Item: Farragut Range Update

Bureau Chief Approval: _____

Prepared by: Sharon W. Kiefer

Background:

The Commission adopted a motion at their November, 2007 meeting that included pursuing a full partnership arrangement with Idaho Parks and Recreation Department to develop, operate and maintain a community, family, and sportsmen based shooting range at Farragut State Park.

A primary step to implement the Commission direction is to gain legal approval to reopen Farragut Range. Lack of a uniform noise standard was considered an impediment to judicial approval. During the 2008 legislative session, Department staff and the Attorney General's Office worked on legislation to create a uniform noise standard for state-owned sport shooting ranges to create an objective and measurable noise standard. The effort resulted in House Bill 515, which was signed into law by the governor and became effective on July 1, 2008.

Department staff has continued with engineering design and cost estimates to develop the "no blue sky" configuration, which is also required as a primary legal consideration of reopening the range.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy issues:

The Commission has stated a policy position for Farragut Range.

Public Involvement Process:

The Commission has received considerable public input about Farragut Range, generally strongly supporting reopening the range.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff will update the Commission about the physical, financial, and legal requirements to reopen Farragut Range.

Justification:

Providing a Farragut Range update is consistent with Commission policy.